

THE EARLY STAGES OF *DIACHRYSLA ORICHALCEA*
(FABRICIUS)

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I was interested in Messrs. David Brown & Andrew Gardner's account of the breeding of this species from a U.K. caught female (*Ent. Rec.*, 96 : 220-1) as their larvae, and particularly their pupae, shewed considerable differences from those I reared in India (1947, *Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 47 : 38) and Mombasa (unpublished).

I described the ovum as pale green, a very much flattened spheroid, with numerous raised ribs radiating from the micropyle.

The newly hatched larva had the head black, not becoming black in the course of the instar, as stated by Messrs. Brown & Gardner, this is virtually impossible as the pharate head is developed *behind* the old head capsule and not *within* it. The head in the second and third instars is yellow brown, finally becoming green in the last (fifth) instar.

My actual description of Mombasa larvae was as follows:

1st instar — Head black. Body when first hatched colourless and transparent, becoming green after feeding. Clothed with short, colourless setae arising from black points. Legs blackish. 1st and 2nd pairs of prolegs absent.

2nd instar — Head yellow brown. Body similar to preceding instar.

3rd instar — Similar.

4th instar — Head yellowish. Body pale green with a slightly darker green dorsal line and lateral strip, the latter edged with a white line. Setae blackish. The whole body, both dark and light portions, with very fine, longitudinal, wavy white lines.

5th (final) instar — Head greenish. Body pale green, a darker green dorsal line, finely edged with white, a fine white subdorsal line with an indistinct whitish stripe between it and the dorsal stripe. A white lateral line edged above with slightly darker green. A series of black verrucae just above the lateral line emitting colourless setae, other setiferous verrucae white. Spiracles white rimmed with black. Legs black. Venter pale green, prolegs pale green, the first two pairs absent. The larvae vary considerably in the width and depth of colour of the dorsal stripe, and some have all the setiferous verrucae black.

The major difference between Messrs. Brown & Gardner's description and mine is in the pupa. The U.K. pupae are described as dark mahogany brown. My Indian pupae were stated to be dull olive black with the inter-segmental areas dull olivegreen. The Mombasa pupae were green with the thorax dark brown dorsally,

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the abdomen with a dark brown dorsal line and intersegmental dark brown suffusion.

My list of food-plants is enormous:— *Bidens pilosa*, *Cichorium*, *Coreopsis*, *Helianthus*, *Lactuca*, *Zinnia* (Compositae), *Brassica*, *Raphanus* (Cruciferae), *Ipomoea batatas* (Convolvulaceae), *Cupressus lusitanica* (Cupressaceae), *Pelargonium* (Geraniaceae), *Zea mays* (Gramineae), *Linum usitatissimum* (Linaceae), *Gossypium* (Malvaceae), *Entadraphragma angolense* (meliaceae), *Dalbergia*, *Medicago*, *Phaseolus*, *Pisum sativum*, *Trifolium*, *Vigna* (Papilionaceae) *Phyllopodium* (Scrophulariaceae), *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Solanum* (Solanaceae), *Daucus* (Umbelliferae).

PARASCOTIA FULIGINARIA L. (WAVED BLACK) IN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE — whilst examining sugar patches by torchlight on 31.7. 1985 near Brockenhurst, a single female of this species was netted. I understand that this is the first confirmed record of this species in the New Forest. R. A. MACKINTOSH, 19 Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey.

HALIPLUS APICALIS THOMS. (COL.) IN FRESH WATER IN THE LONDON SUBURBS. — I was pleased and not a little surprised when a solitary *Haliplus* dredged from pond-weed in the Princess of Wales Pond on Blackheath, 14.x.84, turned out to be a male of the above brackish-water species. It must, of course, have been a vagrant, far from its typical saline haunts, which in this instance might have been the marshes on either bank of the Thames considerably farther east; where, on 18.ix.48 in a ditch at Higham, I took a single male *apicalis* amongst other commoner Halipli of the same group (*ruficollis* Deg., *immaculatus* Gerh.). There is, almost certainly, no previous record for the immediate environs of London. — A. A. ALLEN.

CHRYSOLINA BANKSI F. (COL.) IN WEST KENT. — Although the localities given by Fowler (1890, *Col. Brit. Isl.*, 4:304) show this fine *Chrysolina* to have been not uncommon in the south-east in earlier times, it has for long been extremely local in that part of the country, while becoming progressively more frequent towards the west. In the former area I have met with it only in the well-known South Essex locality, Mucking Marsh near Stanford-le-Hope, under clumps of black horehound (*Ballota nigra* L.). It is of interest therefore to publish a relatively recent find in West Kent — Wilmington, near Dartford — where Mr. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt took it on the latter plant in 1976. Dartford is one of the localities mentioned by Fowler (*l.c.* & VCH list for Kent), and it was taken there by the late E.C. Bedwell in the 1910s or thereabouts. — A. A. ALLEN.